

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00015 070936Z

16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03

INR-07 CIAE-00 /049 W

----- 000777

R 061448Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9374

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0015

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, CZ

SUBJECT: DIVIDED FAMILIES

REF: STATE 299789, STATE 288555

1. CHARGE CALLED ON ZANOTVSKY (HEAD SIXTH DEPT MFA), WHO HAD BEEN AWAY DURING THE HOLIDAYS) AND MADE PRESENTATION ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTELS.

2. DISCUSSION WAS MADE EASIER BY FACT THAT EMBASSY HAD LEARNED OF FIRST EXIT VISA FOR A PERSON THE CONSOLIDATED LIST PRESENTED TO THE MFA ON OCTOBER 31 (MRS. JIRINA BOUCK, SEE SEPTTEL). CHARGE COMMENCED THEREFORE BY EXPRESSION APPRECIATION FOR THIS ACTION AND NOTING HOW HELPFUL IT WAS FOR OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS TO HAVE PROGRESS MADE IN THE AREA OF DIVIDED FAMILIES. ALLUDING TO THE KISSINGER-CHNOUPEK MEETING AT HELSINKI AND THE HARTMAN VISIT TO PRAGUE, CHARGE SAID USG WAS PLEASED TO SEE ANY SIGN THAT GOC WAS INTERESTED IN IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS. PER REFTELS, CHARGE MENTIONED CHNOUPEK'S SPEECH OF NOV 11 AND WHAT WASHINGTON TOOK TO BE SOME IMPROVEMENT IN CZECH MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE US, AS WELL AS PROGRESS IN DIVIDED FAMILIES. CHARGE SAID THAT WITH EYE OF CONGRESS AND US PUBLIC ON DIVIDED FAMILY MATTERS, IT WAS OF ESPECIAL HELP TO REGISTER PROGRESS IN THIS AREA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00015 070936Z

3. IN HIS REPLY, ZANTOVSKY SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT

PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH LONG-GRAVEL AMENDMENT AND ABOUT DIFFICULTIES THIS STILL POSED FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS. HE SAID THERE WAS SOMETHING OF A CHICKEN AND EGG PROBLEM, FOR EACH SIDE WANTED THE OTHER TO MAKE SOME GESTURES TO IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE. FOR HIS PART, SINCE LONG-GRAVEL TENDED TO PUT US-CSSR RELATIONS ON THE SHELF, HE WELCOMED ANYTHING POSITIVE USG COULD DO IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THE GOOD RELATIONS WERE DESIRED. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE ASKED WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED TO SOME OF THE MATTERS DISCUSSED DURING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN'S VISIT, E.G. ON SHORTER CLEARANCES FOR CZECH SHIPS INTO US PORTS AND ON CLOSED AREAS. CHARGE REPLIED THAT ON FORMER, HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WERE SOME GENERAL PROBLEMS THAT NEEDED RESOLUTION BEFORE CZECH REQUEST COULD BE MET, BUT MATTER WAS UNDER STUDY. AS FOR CLOSED AREAS, CHARGE SAID THAT THERE WERE SIMPLY CLEARANCE PROBLEMS WITHIN THE BUREAUCRACY, BUT HARTMAN HAD MADE A COMMITMENT IN THIS MATTER AND WE THOUGHT IT WOULD NOT BE LONG BEFORE WE COULD FULFILL THE COMMITMENT. TURNING TO MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE US, ZANTOVSKY SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR WHAT WASHINGTON HAD SAID ABOUT THE CZECH PRESS. HE SAID IT WAS TRUE THAT HE AND OTHERS FROM THE MFA HAD TOLD THE VARIOUS JOURNALISTS WHOM THEY BRIEFED THAT THE JOURNALISTS SHOULD STRIVE TO ADOPT A REASONABLE TONE TOWARDS THE US. ZANTOVSKY ADDED THAT HE READ THE PRESS OF A NUMBER OF WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AND FELT PERSONALLY THAT THE CZECH PRESS TREATED THE US OFTEN WITH MORE CONSIDERATION THAN DID THE PRESS IN SOME COUNTRIES ALLIED TO US.

4. TURNING SPECIFICALLY TO DIVIDED FAMILIES, ZANTOVSKY SAID HE PERSONALLY HAD RETURNED FROM THE US TO HIS PRESENT POST HOPING TO CLEAR UP ALL DIVIDED FAMILY CASES RIGHT AWAY. HE DISCOVERED THAT IT TOOK A GREAT DEAL OF WORK WITH "THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES," AND HE HAD FOUND SUCCESS WAS MUCH EASIER TO ATTAIN WHEN BILATERAL RELATIONS WERE IMPROVING THAN WHEN THEY WERE NOT SO GOOD. IT WAS ALSO TRUE THAT IN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRAGUE 00015 070936Z

A NUMBER OF CASES THE PARENTS HAD SIMPLY LEFT THEIR CHILDREN BEHIND IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THEN YEARS LATER ASKED TO GET THEIR CHILDREN BACK; IN THESE CASES, EXIT PERMISSION WAS NOT TO BE EXPECTED. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, THIS WAS AN AREA WHOSE IMPORTANCE THEY RECOGNIZED AND WHICH THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK ON DILIGENTLY.
PERRY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, TRAVEL CONTROLS, IMMIGRANT VISAS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRAGUE00015
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760004-1247
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760183/aaaacvti.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 299789, 75 STATE 288555
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIVIDED FAMILIES
TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, CZ, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006